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## West Hartford Earns \$15,000 'Bright Ideas' Grant



Pictured from left to right are Rebecca Meyer, CL&P; West Hartford Town Manager Ron Van Winkle; Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Deputy Commissioner Katie Dykes; Town Energy Specialist Catherine Diviney and State Representative Brian Becker (Steve Blazo Photography / / December 4, 2013)

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The Hartford Courant

5:00 PM EST, December 6, 2013

WEST HARTFORD — The town has received a \$15,000 "Bright Idea Grant" for earning more than 100 points in the Energize CT Clean Energy Communities program.

West Hartford was among 35 Connecticut towns who earned a grant and were recognized at the state capitol on Wednesday. The grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

The program allows participants to earn points for energy efficiency and clean energy commitments.

The town earned points by hiring an energy manager, enrolling 1,769 homes in residential energy savings programs, holding an annual school conservation challenge and benchmarking energy use at each of its buildings, according to a news release.

According to a spokesman for Energize CT, West Hartford saved 31,856,939 kilowatt-hours of energy between January 2010 and August 2013, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 17,322 tons, which is "equivalent to taking 3,021 cars off the road for one year."

The town has not yet determined how to use the grant funds.

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